Lakeside Town Hall Meeting, May 13, 2020

Time of the meeting: 2:00 pm

Notes were taken by: Shuwen Yue

Present at the meeting:

  Committee members
  Chair: Will Smith
  Vice Chair: Zoe Volene
  Secretary: Shuwen Yue
  Treasurer: Emily Cuddy
  Social Chair: Peter Czajka
  Webmaster: ABSENT
  Garden Coordinator: Jessica Wilson
  External Relations Delegate: Nancy Lu

  University
  Michael Hebditch

  ACC
  Mark Clemmons

Social events
  • Will: All social events for the rest of the year no longer happening

Internet issues
  • Will: ACC worked with HotWire to increase internet service to Lakeside, has been really helpful
Signage for residents only
  ● Will: ACC has put up signs clarifying that entrance to and parking for Lakeside is for residents only so that non-residents are not coming in to use our facilities.

Basketball court closure
  ● Will: Princeton and ACC received numerous reports of non-residents and residents using the courts in ways that violated social distancing practices. There is no way to ensure only residents used these facilities, as a result the court is closed

Composting/recycling/dumpsters
  ● Will: We sent out an email with clarifications about recycling and composting rules. Mark has clarified the role of dumpsters which are put out every year to assist with move out. They were put out earlier this year to accommodate residents leaving earlier than usual due to COVID-19
  ● Mark: Regarding the issue with switching out garbage bins vs cans, the issue with bins is that the lids are not closed all the time to keep animals out.
  ● Kevin: If the cans hold more capacity, it might be caused by staff shortage since staff is spread thin across campus right now
  ● Emily: I’ve noticed at Lemonick Court, by the end of the week trash is spilling out of the bins, is it possible to get overflow bins? As move out starts, people will throw out even more stuff, if we can get additional bins it would be helpful
  ● Mike: I can reach out to see if there is the possibility of additional bins

Packages/mail
  ● Will: If you have a valuable package, send it to Lakeside front office (200 Lakeside Rd) to minimize the chance of it being stolen. USPS has not been very good about putting packages inside mail rooms.
  ● Resident: Do postmen collect mail from the outgoing mail box on the first floor mail rooms?
  ● Will: Yes that should work.

Trash bin inside hallways
  ● Resident: Is it possible to put a trash bin on each floor in the building for disposable masks and gloves? Due to the covid19, it is dangerous to bring masks and gloves home, but considering the narrow hallway, it is necessary
to wear masks in the building since it is hard to keep social distance inside the building.

- Mark: I can look into it, but usually we don’t put bins inside because people confuse it with household trash bins
- Will: You could have your own small wastebasket by your front door to dispose of these items

Sidewalk chalk event

- Will: Jessica had idea of a sidewalk chalk event, where we can supply sidewalk chalk in a safe manner for to people as a fun thing to do outside
- Jessica: It is an opportunity to build community and appreciate each other even while we practice social distancing
- Kevin: How do you plan on disseminating chalk safely?
- Jessica: First I would check the forecast for 3-4 days of no rain. Then (wearing gloves and a mask) I would leave chalk outside on the basketball court. I would write a note of instruction (please take one, take only what you touch), and ask the residents to write their names next to their drawings/poems/sentiments so people know who to appreciate.
- UPDATE from Kevin Fleming post-meeting: I’m sorry for the news, but I just found out that chalking is actually prohibited on University property as per Rights, Rules Responsibilities 1.4.7: https://rrr.princeton.edu/university#comp147. My sincerest apologies for this, but after reviewing this with my team, I am unable to offer an exception to this policy. The committee should consider alternative options for programming or community engagement at this point. Please know that your attention and efforts are very much appreciated- let me know if I can be of any assistance as you look into other options and ideas, I’m happy to help.

Purchasing mask for residents:

- Will: We had the idea of a program to provide residents with a supply of cloth masks to wear and wash. There is a website called waterlust where you can purchase cloth masks for $3/piece. Perhaps this could be a combined effort between Lakeside committee, ACC, and the graduate school to fund it.
- Kevin: On grad school end, I would be concerned about contributing to the project because it is only for Lakeside residents when it should be for all students. And the message to America currently is to make a simple cloth covering at home. If grad students need face masks, they can talk to departments about PPE, although there is a limited supply. I can talk about this to my team to look into the possibility of something like this.
Jessica: I made my own cloth mask and it took a long time, I don’t think everyone has the skillset or the time to do this. If the grad school provided them, it would save a lot of time for people.

Emily: Perhaps we should try to figure out how many people actually need them first?

Zoe: Masks on back order right now (4-6 weeks), so people who recognize the need for it may have paid for them already but just haven't gotten them yet

Kevin: If you distribute them now, what happens when new residents move in? There’s alot to consider for a project like this, but I’ll bring this up to my team

Will: Regarding new residents, it would be relatively simple to include them when distributing new resident packet and information

UPDATE from Kevin Fleming post-meeting: In response to your inquiry regarding face masks- current University guidance encourages the use of face coverings that can be easily made for little to no cost without the need for sewing. Please see the attached document from the CDC. Other options, like simply wrapping a scarf or a piece of cloth around the mouth and nose, are also deemed sufficient options for a face covering. PPE is in short supply across the country and hard to purchase in large amounts. The University has a very small supply of masks right now and the Emergency Management Team at the University is actively seeking donations of PPE to donate to the state for distribution to medical facilities and other first responders. I hope that this guidance is helpful.

Work orders/bedspace turnover
- Will: ACC will try to stay out of units as much as possible, they will supply tools and instructional videos on how to fix in-unit issues
- Will: Bedspace turnover will start after Memorial Day

Green move-out pilot program
- This program is being delayed for a year due to COVID-19

CSA
- Will: CSA is starting soon, Emily and Jessica will send out an email about the new location of the boxes by the grill area, where there is more airflow. Once it gets warmer out, we can talk about better places to put them.

Garden update
Jessica: We are waiting to install raised beds. It sounds like some of the funding we applied for will be given to us at a later time after COVID-19 is better understood. In the meantime, we will plant cover crops to try to improve the soil condition in the plots with the worst drainage. We had less demand this year for plots, so I left the plots with the worst drainage empty.